

HULLAVINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday April 28 April 2021 via Zoom

Present: Thirty-Two members of the public attended the meeting including the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Maggie Bawden who chaired the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Rachel Cripps, Maggie Dyson, Frances Edwards, Pat Harper, Jon Jeeves, Sally Jeeves, Elizabeth Parry-Williams, Peter Parry-Williams, Don Queen, Catherine Sanderson, Anthony Slater

2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2019 at 7.30pm

The Minutes of the previous APM had been agreed and signed as a correct record at the following Parish Council meeting on 8 May 2019. It was noted that the minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website or ask the Clerk for a copy.

3. Hullavington Parish Council

The Chairman of the Parish Council gave a report, copied below.

Chairman's Report – APM – 24.4.2021

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting of Hullavington Parish Council and thank you for attending. I must also thank our Councillors, who give up their time free of charge, to work in the best interests of the village. It has been a pleasure to work with them for the last five years and I look forward to working with them again.

There will be no election for the Parish Council in May. The call for nominees as Parish Councillor recently did not seem to elicit much interest from Parishioners. Seven of the current Councillors submitted their nomination papers and, as there are nine seats on the Parish Council, they will continue the good work that they have been doing over the last five years. Co-option notices for two more councillors will be displayed and circulated in due course and hopefully we shall soon have a full Council.

The duty of a Parish Council is to administer the business of the Parish. Sharon, who has served almost 12 years as Clerk to the Council, continues to keep us in order to ensure that we are following the correct protocol in doing this.

Thank you, Sharon, and thank you also for the many hours that you spend in attending various meetings and training courses so that you are aware of the latest legislation by which we must abide. Sharon is also the Responsible Financial Officer for the Council and once again our Annual Accounts for the last year have been accepted by the Auditors.

Ex Councillors Eric Gough and Mick Morgan are still helping with cemetery matters by marking out the burial plots in the cemetery before an interment takes place - so still working for their village. This assistance is greatly appreciated. However, they will be instructing two of the current Councillors as to the methodology of how the plots are marked out so that they can eventually step down from this task. None of us are getting any younger!

Assistance from Parishioners is always welcomed and very much appreciated, especially the work of the Butler brothers who keep the cemetery hedge trimmed for us and have been carrying out this task for many years; Jeff Simkins who cuts and collects the grass from the cemetery extension area, the POSH group - still actively seeking an area of Open Space for the village and not forgetting Richard Warren - champion litter picker - and the many other members of our community who also litter pick throughout the year and not just during the Annual British Spring Clean. This event was cancelled last year but will again be taking place later this year. If you would like to take part please let the Clerk or Councillor Maltby know and you will be added to the list of participants.

The village will be entering the Best Kept Village competition once again to see if we can win the Lawrence Kitching Award. The judges are not looking for the prettiest village, just a village that looks neat, tidy and welcoming, so we can all do our bit by tending our own areas.

Coronavirus has had a lot to answer for this last year! Due to the Wiltshire Council elections being cancelled last May, we have been without a County Councillor for that period. However, Nick Botterill, a candidate in next month's elections, has been attending our meetings via Zoom and has been most helpful when his services have been required.

The village does maintain a Community Resilience Plan, overseen by Cllr. Tillotson. However, when the pandemic started, we were supposed to be alerted by Wiltshire Council to put it into action. Nothing was heard.

Hullavington does not hang around! Within days Issie Greenman of Mount Zion Church was on the case and the most vulnerable people in the village had been identified. Volunteers came forward to help with tasks that may have been difficult for some.

Jo Martin and Wendy Bullough, parishioners who both work at the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre, volunteered to bring prescribed medications out to the village and they did this for a year. This service continues but, due to changes at MPCC it is now Lydia Hanks, who was raised in the village and works in the pharmacy there, who is bringing out the medications.

All this showed that Hullavington cared and we have been most fortunate to have come through this whole thing relatively unscathed. Hullavington is still caring and I have a feeling that the community spirit, that has shown itself during this difficult time, will continue.

The Parish Council has been consulted on 17 planning Applications between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 21. Some of these are lingering longer than usual in the Planning Process - again due to Coronavirus.

The approval, at Referendum, of the Hullavington Neighbourhood Development Plan in November 2019 – which was the result of four years of hard work by a very dedicated group of Parishioners – means that all Planning Applications now have to conform to the various Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. We are fortunate in having Cllr Graeme Slaymaker on the Parish Council as he was a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group and is very much au fait with the contents of the Plan.

It's been a long time coming but, following the approval of the Dyson Masterplan Application in August 2020, things have certainly been happening. We now have not just one but two roundabouts to negotiate and these are in the process of being landscaped. Before long, it will seem as though they have always been there. At least exiting the C1 road from the village onto the A429 is now safe. A big thank you to the contractors, Griffiths for keeping us informed regarding the progress of this mammoth task.

Highways works in the village over the last year have included a new footway being introduced on The Street connecting 62 and 66. Due to the width of the road there, this was the best that Highways could provide but it is better than nothing. A new grit bin has also been placed on the slope at the entrance to Belfry Drive from Hill Hayes Lane to ensure safe passage for pedestrians and vehicles.

As Wiltshire Council no longer removes the rubbish from the cemetery, we are requesting that visitors to the cemetery take their old floral tributes, wrappings etc home with them. Cllr Dave Martin made signs requesting this but unfortunately, they are ignored by many people. It is not difficult just to take them home and dispose of them in your own recycling bin, so please do so.

Over the last year a lot of work has been undertaken in the cemetery. The cutting back of the overgrown vegetation on the inside of the cemetery boundary; the removal of some dead trees and the removal of accumulated spoil. These works have all been carried out by companies that are based in the village: JD Estate Maintenance, Acer Tree Surgeons and SAS Builders who all came in with very competitive quotes. We do like to keep it local if we can. Cllr Dave Martin has staked the young tree on the left as you enter the cemetery and repaired the notice board: Councillor Maltby undertakes the weed spraying on the car park and the cemetery gates have also been repainted by Cllr Cundick who volunteered her time and wood preservative for this task. Cllr Cundick also donated the Christmas tree for the churchyard once again and we are so lucky and very grateful that 9 Regt. RLC can always find us some volunteers to rig it. The lads and lasses make very light work of the task and it is always a joy to meet up with them.

You will shortly be hearing the Footpaths Report from Don Queen, another former Parish Councillor. On the receipt of last year's report, Cllr Sheila Greenman and her husband went out and cut back around stiles and other overgrown areas which Don had reported. Sadly, the Rights of Way team have not yet replaced all the missing signs on our lovely

Rights of Way which have been well used over the last year. We also have a new permissive path thanks to the Hawker family. This runs from the sewage farm, behind the hedge to link up with Footpath 29, and the Palladian Way. Far safer than having to walk along the verge from the Rail Bridge on the Norton road!

The play area sited in the school field, which was placed there as a Millennium project is having to be removed due to the school needing the space. This will take place when the weather improves. Hopefully the proposed new play area, being provided as part of the development on Site 690, will be a satisfactory replacement until we are able to find that elusive piece of land for Village Open Space. The POSH group will be having some input on that area once the Planning Application is submitted.

No doubt many of you will have noticed the scaffolding around the bus shelter in the centre of the village during that hot spell of weather that we had last July. This was being used by Cllr Hank Slater who had volunteered to replace a few missing tiles on the roof. On further investigation it was found that the roof needed rather more attention. This resulted in Hank replacing all the roof battens and lining and relaying all the tiles! This was done in his own time at no cost to the Parish Council apart from the materials used. Hank will be painting the bus shelter in the not too distant future and, at the suggestion of a Parishioner, it will become a book exchange.

Hank has also taken down a dead elm on the village green and replaced the bench that was sited on the green opposite The Hullavington Arms. It has been replaced by a new bench which has been donated by the daughters of the late John and Beryl Greenwood in memory of their parents.

It has been a busy year for the Council and despite the pandemic a lot has been achieved. As you will appreciate from the foregoing, being a Parish Councillor is not just about sitting around a table once a month but also doing things for the village. All the Reports will be published on the Parish Council website in due course. It is now time to hear reports from other organisations in the village.

4. Book Group and Film of the Book Group

The Clerk read a report submitted by Elizabeth Parry-Williams and copied below.

HULLAVINGTON BOOK GROUP

During the past year, we have kept the book group running, although with few meetings at the village hall, and often without our usual supply of library books.

There are eleven members, all but one, who has moved to Chippenham, live in Hullavington.

We normally meet in the small hall on the afternoon of the second Tuesday in the month. Up until, and including December, we managed six sessions in 2020, and of course not at all this year, as a result of the third lockdown.

During 2020 and 2021, there have been times when I have felt like giving up, but we have managed to keep going, and once Malmesbury library opened for 'click and collect' in September, we were able to resume our monthly supply of books to read and review. Under normal circumstances, the mobile library delivers our books, but in 2020 there were very few visits. I understand the service is resuming on the 29th April. We will continue to use Malmesbury library for collection and the mobile for returns, feeling it is vitally important to support both library services.

Kathryn has been extremely helpful in Malmesbury, recommending and sourcing our books, and ensuring a copy is made available each month for our group member to collect from Chippenham library. This help and enthusiasm has been very much appreciated.

In February we read '**The Giver of Stars**' by Jojo Moyes. The novel is based on true events during the Depression years in America, when library girls delivered the books by packhorse, in the Appalachian hills in Kentucky. A chance comment, and a mention to Kathryn, led Abi, Polly and Micky the rescue pony, to join a couple of us delivering the library books round the village in March. This in turn led to 'The Blue Cross', then the newspapers, Channel 5 and Points West taking up the story and running with it for a whole week. This was such good fun, and we were blessed with beautiful weather on both filming days.

The 13th April), found us delivering the month's book choice again by pony, but also accompanied by Solly the tame duck. Our trail round the village brought smiles to faces. We plan to do the same in May.

During the year, we have read our library books, (or swapped our own, when these were not available), and reviewed via email. A quiz was also set up where members anonymously chose and sent in their ten favourite book titles and members had to guess who the lists belonged to.

The plan is to return to the village hall when permitted, in the knowledge we can keep going under most circumstances.

'Film of the Book' Monday evening sessions have also been in very short supply, but we will return to the hall in the summer. All three films sessions, Film Group, Film Group EXTRA and Film of the Book, will be held on Wednesdays in future.

If anyone would like to join the book group, or attend the film evenings, please let me know.

Elizabeth Parry-Williams

5. **Buckley Barracks**

No report

6. **Hullavington Footpaths and Rights of Way**

The Chairman read a report submitted by Don Queen and copied below.

APM 2021 Footpath Report - Don Queen

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic of the last year, and consequent lockdowns, the Hullavington Parish footpaths have generally been much more heavily used than in previous years, with many of the paths now well-trodden and defined. There has been little reporting of problems, however it is noted that the issues reported at the last year's APM (mainly signage) still have not been fixed by Wiltshire Council. The problem with the stile on Footpath (FP) 1 being undercut by the stream near the end of Newtown was fixed with hardcore by Ashton Hawker's team, who also repaired the rotten/wobbly stile on FP 29 (Newtown to C1 road).

A few years ago now, Dyson planning applications proposed the closure of FP 10 (by the former 'Gliding Hangars') and diversion of FP 9, and the creation of a new footpath connecting it to Stanton FP 11. This has not taken place yet- the footpaths are still as they have been in the past.

A member of the public reported to the Hullavington Parish Council that they had been told by a land owner that FP 9 (which runs past the edge Stock Woods) was closed down. So far as I am aware this is not the case, I have seen no extinguishment or diversion orders for this path, and the path is still present on the Wiltshire Council definitive map, as well as on the Ordnance Survey map.

Last year, a new permissive footpath was created running from the C1 entrance to the Sewage farm along the hedgerow to FP 29, thus creating an off-road route from close to Brookside/Station Yard entrance over to Newtown, avoiding section of road which is not particularly pedestrian friendly. This permissive footpath is up and running. Many thanks to the Hawkers for permitting this to cross their field, to Hank Slater for making the stile, and to Gavin Williams for strimming this path. It is always welcome to see the creation of new FPs.

7. **Hullavington News**

The Clerk read a report submitted by Sally Jeeves and copied below.

Hullavington News report for the Annual Parish Meeting on 28th April 2021

It's my third year of editing the News since taking over from Rachel Hurst at the end of 2018 and in 2022, we'll mark the 50th anniversary of the magazine existing in some form as a village newsletter.

I've continued the original ethos of keeping the magazine non-political and free for all residents in the Parish and beyond. Our aim is to inform residents about news and

community activities; and provide a platform for local charities and businesses to promote and advertise their services.

Since I took over, Carl Greenman has left the editorial team so it's just me and Liz Greenman now – we have asked for volunteers to help run the magazine but haven't had any interest so far!

There has been a big shift in the way we manage distribution. Previously it was delivered to every household in the Village and our print run was about 550 copies. We relied (and still do) on fundraising, donations from core village user groups and advertising revenue to cover costs and it was fair to say, we were quite 'hand to mouth' at times with only enough money in the pot for another edition or two.

I was also concerned that there was potentially a lot of wasted copies based on our 'push through every door' strategy rather than 'known demand'. The village also launched its 'Hullavington Happenings' Facebook group and along with Maggie Bawden's 'Village email', there has been the inevitable shift to more instant, digital information. I noticed that the FB group had more than 1000 members within weeks of starting, which I think is a good indication of its popularity.

When the Covid crisis unfolded and we were locked down, it wasn't appropriate to ask our volunteer group of 'delivery angels' to walk around the village delivering copies, so I took the opportunity to leave piles of magazines in key places around the village and Wellington Place for people to collect. It quickly became clear that there were areas with less interest. I took the decision to reduce the print run rate by half and allow those that are interested to collect a copy. At the same time, I now produce a digital copy that is promoted on FB, via Maggie's email and thanks to Sharon Neal, all copies are also on our Parish Website.

My intention is still to ensure a printed copy remains available for those that don't have access to the internet, or simply prefer to read it in printed form. The 'drop points' have been reduced to the Village Shop and Church Porch and there's now an informal system of people picking up a copy for a neighbour if they can't get out. The reduction in print run has produced the unexpected bonus of a much more positive cashflow – this will probably become more relevant in the next year or so as our core user groups will all have reduced cash-flow and will probably be unable to donate what they previously have done.

I'd like to say a very big 'thank-you' to Liz Greenman for her help in managing the advertisers and acting as treasurer. Also to Jason Miles at Jamprint for his support, Paul Girn at the shop, Sharon Neal, Maggie Bawden and all our regular advertisers and contributors.

Best Wishes
Sally Jeeves, Editor

8. Hullavington Parochial Church

Catherine Sanderson submitted a report, which was read by Alison Reed and copied below.

St Mary Magdalene Church, Hullavington

Annual Report for the Parish Council for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Review of the year to 31 December 2020

Clergy and Lay Ministers

Revd Adam Beaumont was licensed as our new Rector on the 10th September 2020. Revd Susan Harvey is Associate Priest and Elveen Mead was Curate until leaving the Gauzebrook Group in July 2020. Two retired clergymen, Rev John Morgan and Rev Alastair Davies, with wide Permission to Officiate, minister in the Group and elsewhere, and four Lay Ministers - Becky Fisher, Henrietta Metters, John Metters, and Marjorie Morgan - are licensed to the Group. Becky Fisher is the Rural Schools and Churches Worker in the Gauzebrook Group.

The coronavirus pandemic has obviously had a dramatic affect on our Church life, services and events.

Church was closed for services from 15th March 2020 to 9th August 2020.

Prior to the second lock down in November 2020 when the Church closed again, we had managed to get back to a weekly service pattern and the Church was able to open for stewarded private prayer in June 2020, changing to unstewarded private prayer in November 2020.

During the lockdowns the ministry team was able to lead many and various services on line via Zoom and YouTube etc.

Becky has been able to run Little Lights on Facebook and there was a brief period between lock downs when we were able to welcome Becky and Little Lights back into church. In July Becky held an outdoor Little Lights to say goodbye to some of its regular members who were moving on to Primary School.

Activities and events

a Normally two regular home groups meet for Bible study, weekly on Mondays, and monthly on first Thursdays. These have continued via Zoom during the lockdowns.

b The 2020 Lent Course used Bishop Viv's recommended course, 'Saying Yes to Life'.

c. **Goldentreads.** This is a group of about 16 lively older villagers who meet every month in the village hall for fun and fellowship. The group met in January 2020 but then sadly had to stop for obvious reasons.

Other activities

a. **The Church Fete** had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic which was a great disappointment to everyone involved.

b. **Hullavington Hub** This is our new fund raising initiative and we managed to hold this just once on the 7th March 2020 before we went into lockdown. It was very well attended and this bodes well for the future when we can hopefully start running this event again.

c. **Plant Sales and Face Masks** We are hugely grateful to Jebbie and Dudley Hewitt who ran several plant sales over the course of the spring/summer 2020 period, raising funds for the Church maintenance fund and Jebbie has been making and selling huge numbers of face masks again raising substantial amounts of money for the maintenance fund. Many thanks to both of them.

d. **Church Lettings** Our beautifully reordered church which enables us to offer a warm and attractive venue for the community was unable to take bookings for our meeting rooms during lockdown for the majority of 2020. We are hopeful that once restrictions are lifted we will be able to welcome back our regular users.

Prior to lockdown we hosted a very informative evening where we were shown how to use the defibrillator (of which the village now has two) and how and when to administer CPR.

On February 1st 2020 there was a coffee morning to raise funds for the Australian bush fires appeals. Many thanks again to Jebbie Hewitt who masterminded the whole event.

e. Coffee Shop

In normal times our regular weekly Coffee Shop meets every Friday from 10 till 12 and is a popular meeting place for many of our villagers. Sadly the coffee shop has had to be suspended because of lockdown restrictions.

Huge thanks again to Ali Reed for all she does to make it possible to run this initiative successfully.

f. Christmas services.

Due to coronavirus restrictions we were unable to hold our usual Carols and Punch evening, our Carol service or the Nativity service. However Henny Metters and Ali Reed organised a crib service on Christmas Eve telling the story of the first Christmas to family groups in and around the church and singing carols around the Christmas tree in the

church yard. Our grateful thanks to both of them. We were pleased to welcome Christopher Bryan back to lead our Christmas Communion service on Christmas Eve and Becky Fisher led our Christmas morning service.

Churchyard

Once again the PCC would like to thank the Parish Council for the high standard to which it maintains the churchyard, and for the Christmas tree and lights which are very much appreciated by many people in the village. The PCC again thanks the Hullavington Women's Institute for the care taken of the flowerbeds.

9. Wiltshire Police

No report

10. Hullavington Primary and Nursery School

No report

11. Recorder Group

The Clerk read a report submitted by Maggie Dyson and copied below.

Hullavington Recorder Group

This year, it has been different. As soon as we were able to meet outside in groups of 6, Henny Metters kindly invited us to play in her garden, leaving our musical director, Peter, with the conundrum of giving everyone the chance to practise with the other musical voices, when only half the group could play at once. That worked well for a while, with those not on the rota practising during the summer in other gardens at other times. As the nights started drawing in and the weather getting colder, we found we were able to meet all together but socially distanced in the Village Hall, and even managed to make a recording for a Christmas event. The latest winter lockdown has introduced us to the delights of recorder by Zoom, which fills a gap but is a bit challenging when the internet speed varies.

We look forward to all playing together and welcoming new members who play recorders of any size and who can read music confidently. Who knows when?

12. Short Mat Bowls

The Clerk read a report submitted by Pat Harper and copied below.

Hullavington Bowls Club

The Hullavington Bowls Club members have not played bowls since March 2020.

We are hoping to restart as soon as we are allowed as we have missed the friendship as well as the exercise.

Unfortunately, we have lost a number of members through age and illness.

We would welcome new members with or without experience, anyone wishing to learn of any age.

For more information contact Pat on 07462136889.

13. Speed Indicator Device

The Chairman read a report submitted by Peter Parry-Williams and copied below.

Please find some data around the SID unit,
which you may find interesting.

Over 12 months the following details have been recorded:

Incoming Vehicle Movements: 76965

Outgoing Vehicle Movements: 79563

Registered Speeds:

Incoming:

Below 40mph 99.80%

41 - 45 mph 0.15% (118 vehicles)

46 - 50mph 0.04% (28 vehicles)

51 - 55mph 0.01% (7 vehicles)

Nothing recorded above 55mph

Outgoing:

Below 40 mph 99.24%

41 - 45 mph 0.51% (409 vehicles)

46 - 50mph 0.16% (131 vehicles)

51 - 55mph 0.05% (38 vehicles)

56 - 60 mph 0.02% (16 vehicles)

61 - 65mph 0.01% (4 vehicles)

66 - 70mph 0.00% (3 vehicles)

The noticeable element in this data is that where people are driving away from the unit and are not aware their speed is being recorded, there is less adherence to the limit. Where they are approaching the unit most people are taking action to reduce their speed. On this basis

we must conclude that the SID is working to our advantage.

One very obvious thing to come out of the data is that, during the "Lock Downs" of the last year the vehicle movements recorded have significantly reduced. However it is apparent that as time has gone on the numbers of movements have increased again during the more recent "Lock Downs".

Personally I have found the act of battery charging and changing quite an arduous task, particularly as we have to use a tall ladder to make the changes. This ladder has to be taken to the site and then returned after use, this can often mean to or three journeys up and down the village. There is of course the option to have a solar panel fitted to the unit, but for some inexplicable reason, the local authority traffic planners are not keen on this option. It may be worth our re-visiting this question at some stage in the future. (Currently the cost of a retro-fitted solar unit is around £700.00)

All in all I do, however consider the project to be a success.

I trust you concur.

Best wishes

Peter.

14. Toddler Group

The Clerk read a report submitted by Rachel Cripps and copied below.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting but the following is Jolly Tots report.

Similar to all groups the last year has been an extremely quiet one. It was sad we were unable to give the children leaving Jolly Tots for school a proper send off. Especially those who had been attending since they were babies.

Looking to the future we hope to recommence in June. A couple of the committee members whose children now attend school, have agreed to remain. This will help Jolly Tots get up and running again. It is hoped that people will come forward to help run the group once the group is back open.”

Kind regards

Rachel Cripps

15. Hullavington Village Hall

Bob Fenner started to give a report but due to technical issues it was difficult for others to hear. Bob offered to send a report after the meeting to the Clerk. (To be inserted on receipt).

16. Village Show

The Chairman read a report submitted by Jon Jeeves and copied below.

Report for Hullavington Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 28 April 2019 by Zoom

Agenda item 16 - Village Show

2019

The 2019 show had a record number of adult entries (50) and 25% of those were 'first timers' for the show.

20 people volunteered to help run the show, without whose support and time it could not have taken place.

The show made a small profit (£50)

Costs

Engraving	£150
Printing	£40
Rosette centres	£25
Hullavington News Schedule	£50
	£265

Income

Entries @ 50p	£41	
Raffle	£150	
Cream teas	£24	
Linocut sales	£100	
	£315	Profit £50

2020

The Virtual Show was publicised on FB group Hullavington Happenings, in the Hullavington News and also with posters on telegraph poles.

The schedule was much reduced, there were 25 entries in total, 8 trophies were awarded.

2021

The Hall is reserved for Saturday 28 August for the hopeful return to a live show. The draft schedule was printed in the Hullavington News in the April/May edition.

The schedule is more compact than previous live shows and less trophies will be awarded (14 in some previous shows, 7 in 2021) as the engraving cost per trophy (at least £15) is the major cost and unsustainable compared to the income generated.

The live show will not have a prize giving, prizes already being awarded before public admittance. This will allow a 'flow' of people. A decision will be made as to the show format at the beginning of July. If a live show can be held, there will be an appeal for volunteers to help on the day.

If a live show cannot go ahead, a virtual show will once again be held. The objective is to be an inclusive and lighthearted event which encourages new participants and covers its own costs

Jon Jeeves
Show Secretary

17. Hullavington Women's Institute

The Clerk read a report submitted by Frances Edwards and copied below.

Annual Report 2021 for Hullavington WI

This time last year we could never have anticipated what lay ahead for us and the restrictions we were going to face. But the one thing Isobel and her committee were determined about was to keep our WI going and try to include as many members as possible even if they did not have WiFi. Some clubs have folded but I think lockdowns have made us realise how important friendship and companionship is to our daily lives.

As a lot of our ladies are on the elderly side technology is rather alien, and if you are a little hard of hearing as well, it makes it even harder to join in with zoom.

Fortunately we have some tech minded members who have led the way and supported our president through her learning of hosting on line. Trial and error in the beginning with a committee meeting to `test the water` then led onto a members meeting for a good old chat.

It was glorious spring weather and Frances invited several members to bring their own chair, glass of wine and sit well spaced for a chat on the edge of the field, all legal during lockdown. We were all fed up by then with the restrictions imposed and were missing our friends, and so several such get togethers continued . Cilla and Isobel joined in with the netball group for a quiz coming second, and continued during the summer having ball practise sessions to keep their hand in.

Edith sadly decided to resign as vice president , but Sarah has assumed the role. In August, with the good weather continuing, our meeting was held in Isobel`s garden. This was the first face to face proper meeting of the year, when vouchers were presented to the winners of our club competition, Sarah taking first place and Isobel second. With confidence running high over covid, the committee booked the village hall for the next three months, naively thinking the worst was over, and a risk assessment was written

and approved by the hall. But no such luck as the rule of six kicked in. Not to be defeated three neighbouring members hosted six people for 40 mins. then onto the next garden, then all change again. This meant that some of our less agile members could join in too, and it was lovely to see these ladies` blossom `within the company.

By October we were ready to host our first zoom speaker Dr. Phil Yates, inviting Kington St Michael and Kington Langley club members to join us. It was an excellent talk giving us confidence to book more zoom speakers, Lindsay West talking about clothes to wear to match your skin tone, and Bernard Purrier excellent talk on whales and dolphins followed.

The annual conference was held on line and Isobel and Frances listened in, and of course the JA group meeting was also held on zoom, when we had an entertaining talk entitled` Life entertaining tourists on cruise liners`. WI House set up training for our club`s serving officers on 365, which was attended by Cilla, Hilary and Isobel, and Pat and Frances watched two speaker days on line to get ideas for further zoom speakers, some of whom have been booked for future dates. After our really successful Christmas party last year, all we could do this time on line was a quiz, which Maggie won, but it was a jolly event with members all dressed up in their festive attire. Isobel was still concerned some of our members without WiFi were being left out, and as it was January she made them each of them a pot of homemade marmalade delivering it to their house with a pot plant . True WI spirit I think!

WI House in keeping with the strict rules of lockdown, have had to alter their policies, in that our AGM can be held on line, and committee members if they agree can continue in office for a further year. But all members have to show their acceptance of this by filling in the appropriate form and signing. Annual reports from the president treasurer and minute secretary still have to be submitted to WI House as usual. Annual subscriptions for this year are now due on the 1st April.

Our AGM on Wednesday will seem a little strange but will include a game of bingo. Thanks need to go again to Steph and Lucinda for looking after the tubs at the Village Hall and the village entrance, and every one of our members who have made a real effort to keep our lovely club going during these unbelievable times.

Frances Edwards (Minutes Secretary)

18. Wiltshire Council

Cllr Philip Whitehead didn`t send a report as a significant number of communications had been sent out this year, largely on a single subject.

19. Public Question Time

Tessa Clarke stated that it is vital that the rest of the village move from oil, by 2028 it will be phased out. She has spoken to Wiltshire Council who is supportive of the idea. Helen Davies stated that she has had an air source pump and solar panels fitted, if any

parishioner would like to see and ask any questions, she would be willing for them to have a look.

Air Commodore Paul Rose had two questions; the first question was:

- 1) As broadband isn't good in the village, can the Parish Council have any influence on improving it?
- 2) As the Neighbourhood Plan is nearly two years old and Wiltshire Council does not have a 5-year housing supply, and that Neighbourhood Plans can be overturned he is concerned that the land adjacent to his home will be built on and spoil his view, therefore could the Plan be updated to stop this happening?

Tessa Clarke was concerned about the position of the new 30 mph sign adjacent to the cemetery. The chairman replied that Wiltshire Council is keeping it under review and they will be fitting a florescent band to the post in addition to the displayed 'New Road Layout' sign.

Hayden Brown had three questions

- 1) Could the village verges be left for wildflowers?

The Chairman explained that the verges have just started getting compliments from parishioners regarding their tidiness. It is also possible that it could conceal dog mess as this is of ongoing concern.

- 2) What were the farmers spraying on the fields?
- 3) He also stated that a drain in Greens Close had a large opening and could be dangerous for animals, the Chairman asked if he could take a photo of it and submit it to 'Report an Issue' on the Wiltshire Council website.

William Harmer commended the Chairman again for her splendid 'Village Communications'.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm